Quality Improvement Center ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

Request for Proposals for

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Research and Demonstration Projects

Funding Opportunity Title:

Advancing Knowledge about Approaches to Prevent Maltreatment and Promote Family Strengths and Optimal Development among Infants and Young Children

Funding:

The National Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, under Cooperative Agreement 90CA1763

Sponsoring Organizations: Center for the Study of Social Policy, ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families, and the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, in collaboration with the Children's Bureau, Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Type of Announcement: Initial Request for Proposals (RFP) for Research and Demonstration Projects in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

Number of Awards:

Three to five grants will be awarded

Maximum **Funding**

Maximum Federal funding per award is \$1,240,000 for a 40-month grant period (March 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013), assuming five grants

Per Award:

are awarded.

Matching Funds: A match of 10% of the total project budget is required. (The total project budget equals the Federal funds plus matching funds.)

Due Date for

January 19, 2010

Proposals:

Executive Summary

The Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood (QIC-EC) was established to promote the development, dissemination, and integration of new knowledge about maltreatment prevention among infants and young children (birth-5) who are at high risk for abuse, neglect, and abandonment including those impacted by substance abuse or HIV/AIDS. The QIC-EC is grounded in four major premises:

- Child maltreatment prevention efforts must include a focus on promotion (i.e., increasing protective factors) as well as on prevention (i.e., reducing risk factors).
- Child maltreatment prevention must be placed within the larger context of optimal child development and increased family strengths.
- The social-ecological model of prevention expands the scope and reach of child maltreatment prevention efforts from a singular focus on individual factors to include interpersonal relationship factors, community factors, and societal/systems factors.
- Broad collaborations among key stakeholders are vital to the provision of the full range of needed services to children and families, to improved outcomes for young children and families, and to the success of child maltreatment prevention efforts.

The QIC-EC will support 3-5 research and demonstration (R&D) projects that show promise of generating robust evidence and new knowledge related to the following overarching research question:

How and to what extent do collaborations that increase protective factors and decrease risk factors in core areas of the social ecology result in optimal child development, increased family strengths, and decreased likelihood of child maltreatment, within families of young children at high-risk for child maltreatment?

In their approach to this question, R&D projects must target high-risk families who have an infant between the ages of birth to 24 months at the inception of the project, and for whom there has been no substantiated Child Protective Services report in the 24 months preceding acceptance into the project. R&D projects must employ interventions with research designs that reflect criteria along the evidence-informed to evidence-based continuum. R&D projects may propose an evaluation research design that includes a randomized control group or a quasi-experimental design that includes the use of both quantitative and qualitative data, as well as treatment and comparison groups. R&D projects must demonstrate the integration of the target population's characteristics, culture, and values into the design and implementation of the

interventions to help expand the knowledge base on the role of culture in preventing child maltreatment. In addition to their respective local evaluations, projects must participate in the cross-site evaluation conducted by the QIC-EC.

The R&D projects must include interagency collaborations within their communities, which may take place at the state, tribal, regional, or territory levels and among the child abuse prevention, child welfare, early childhood, and other health, education, and social service systems. Grantees must document all aspects of the project and produce a detailed manual to guide the replication of the project in other settings or with other populations.

The QIC-EC has established a Learning Network which serves as an active mechanism for exchange of information between the QIC-EC, R&D projects, and a multidisciplinary group of organizations and individuals who share the commitment to maltreatment prevention in very young children. Grantees are expected to participate actively in the Learning Network and in other activities designed to translate and integrate new knowledge developed by the projects into practice and policy in a timely way.

Key Dates

Pre-Submission Technical Assistance Webinar October 15, 2009
Letters of Interest DueNovember 9, 2009
Invitations to Submit Proposals DistributedNovember 30, 2009
Proposals DueJanuary 19, 2010
Announcement of Awards February 26, 2010
Effective Date of Grants/Start-UpMarch 1, 2010
Refining the PlansMarch 1 – April 30, 2010
Grantees Meeting March 24 & 25, 2010
Projects in Full OperationMay 27, 2010
Projects EndJune 30, 2013